



ORANGE COUNTY CHAPTER BUICK CLUB OF AMERICA

February 2014

The Buick Running Board



March 1
Nethercutt
Museum
Tour

Details
pg. 4



Car of the Month (see *Wildcat* on page 3)



Events Planning Meeting Minutes January 18, 2014

Called to order at 1:10 PM

BOP Car Show on Saturday, Jan. 25 in Yorba Linda/10AM to 3PM. Their website is www.sccpoci.com.

Jeanne Dyke gave us an overview of our chapter finances as a chapter budget will not be available until next meeting...our chapter finances are current and we're NOT in the red. Financial profit permitting, Jeanne also made the suggestion that we consider donating to a car-related cause.

Sonny made the request for our newsletter - that we submit car photos and stories to Ray Brown, newsletter editor.

Richard Brewbaker prepared an annual 2014 Schedule of Tours.

Sonny brought up the establishment of a date for our chapter picnic at Irvine Park...Saturday, June 21 (TENTATIVE DATE). Sonny also mentioned that there will be no meeting for July because of the BCA Nat'l in Portland on July 22-30.

Larry Minery mentioned that he was thinking of creating a third caravan to Portland. Bruce Andren = Wagon Master for #2 caravan to Portland. Our O>C. Chapter = caravan #1 - Sonny Bishop = Wagon Master.

Father Doug Cook volunteered to hold our chapter Christmas Party at his church on Glassel Ave. on Sat., Dec. 6th. He also suggested that we take a neighborhood tour of the Christmas lights. Doug will furnish the main entree - after that, it's POTLUCK.

Our chapter's annual car show was discussed in detail; however the venue and date were tabled until our March Meeting. Jeanne Dyke volunteered to handle the paperwork.

Sonny asked to be reminded to bring this up at our March meeting.

Bruce Andren suggested a tour of the Nethercutt Museum and volunteered to checkout the reservation details for two dates: Sat., Feb. 15th if possible /and in case the date is unavailable, the alternate date is Saturday, 4-20. IT is to be noted that a vote was taken and the majority ruled for the February date.

Bruce Andren also suggested a tour to Griffith Park - Disney Barn. Two dates were voted on, Sat., Sept. 20th or Sat., Sept. 27th.

Larry Minery suggested a tour to the Space Shuttle and has volunteered to check out the details.

Baron Night suggested a Buena Park venue for our chapter car show on the 3rd Sunday in October, Oct. 19th. Baron also suggested that we publish chapter activities in our newsletter two-months in advance of our established date. Additional details will be available at a later date.

Club membership was discussed in detail. Larry Minery takes the prospective name from our Buick Bugle with the assigned membership number and sends out an invitation letter to join the O. C. Chapter. The person decides to join our chapter and when he attends a welcome letter with a badge with his name and assigned membership number is given to him by our treasurer, Jeanne Dyke.....This represents good follow-up by our chapter.

Sonny made the announcement that there will be no change in our meeting venue but because of our bi-annual meeting and tour schedule-John Dyke has volunteered to properly notify Spires.

Our meeting was adjourned at 3:10 PM.

-Linda Wangerin

Director's Message

Our January planning meeting went very well. We had a great turnout at Larry Minery's for lunch provided by the club, then a very productive meeting. This year we will be touring more with our old cars, and having fewer formal meetings. **Be sure to read your news letter each month, Especially the Secretary's minutes.** Our first tour is on March first to the Nethercutt collection. Call Bruce Andren or Richard Brewbaker NOW to make your reservation. Tours are limited to a predetermined amount of people and there is a private docent, so don't miss out. I had a last minute invitation on January 23 for a special tour of four of the Nethercutt collection which I couldn't turn down. It was fantastic. Don't miss this one. Please come to our tours and meetings and give us your input.

Sheridan Bishop III Director

The Nethercutt Collection

On March 1 Bruce Andren has arranged a tour of the Nethercutt Collection in Sylmar at 9 AM on Saturday, March 1. The Nethercutt consists of two parts, the Museum and the Collection. Both are free but **we need to make reservations** for the Collection which is guided and limits the number of visitors. So **you must RSVP to Bruce by Feb. 21** if you plan to attend. We will tour the Collection from 10 AM until noon. The Museum is self-guided and can be viewed after the Collection tour.

A brief description of the exhibits is given below from the Nethercutt Website, <http://www.nethercuttcollection.org> where you can also find a map with driving directions.

Note: There are no eating facilities, or picnic areas on the premises. There are restaurants about 2 miles away so you will have to plan for a lunch break during the day.

THE NETHERCUTT COLLECTION

Among the treasures spanning four floors in the collection's original facility is one of the world's most outstanding assortments of beautifully restored antique, classic automobiles. They are showcased in an exquisite re-creation of an opulent automotive grand salon of the 1920's and 1930's. An amazing collection of automobile mascots, antique furniture, clocks and watches, and one of the world's finest collections of Mechanical Musical Instruments are displayed in our music room.

THE NETHERCUTT MUSEUM

The Nethercutt Museum showcases more than 130 of the world's greatest antique, vintage, classic and special interest automobiles including many top winners of the Pebble Beach Concours d'Elegance.

[1937 CANADIAN PACIFIC ROYAL HUDSON LOCOMOTIVE AND 1912 PULLMAN PRIVATE CAR](#)

Just steps outside the Museum are a perfectly restored steam locomotive and a Private Car, which was owned by the eldest daughter of Santa Anita Race Track founder, E.J. "Lucky" Baldwin.

The Nethercutt Collection:

15200 Bledsoe Street

Sylmar, CA 91342

(818) 364-6464

Larry and Michele Minery's '67 Wildcat

from pg. 1

As our relationship between my wife, Michele, and I started in close proximity to the creation of our new 1967 Buick Wildcat honeymoon car, I will give you a short history from the beginning. On July 23rd, 1966 we went on a blind date arranged by my brother and his wife in my parents 1965 Buick Electra 225, as my brother had borrowed my car while his was in the shop. On January 21st, 1967, I placed a special order for a heavily optioned 1967 Buick Wildcat from Reason Buick in Santa Ana, Ca. The Wildcat was built in the GM assembly plant in Southgate Ca., about 25 miles from my home. I have to tell this story about my soon to be father-in-law who was a top selling Chevrolet salesman. For the life of him, he could not understand why I would buy a Buick and not a Chevy! I told him I would like to go see the cars being built at the factory, and he says, Oh, I can arrange that, so a few days later, he, my future mother-in-law, wife and myself hop into his new 67 Caprice and head off to what I assumed would be the Southgate plant where the Wildcat was being built, but NO, father-in-law to be, took us to the Chevrolet assembly plant in Van Nuys Ca., so I got to see Chevy's being built. A few days later a group of my friends and myself did tour the Southgate facility.

On Feb. 24, 1967, The Wildcat arrived at the Buick dealer. The car looked fantastic with it's apple red body and black vinyl roof and with power everything. I remember Michele and I went cruising around that night. On June 3rd, 1967, we got engaged. After we left the jewelry store with one ring on her finger and one in a box for later use, we drove around at 30 MPH with the cruise control on, which lights an indicator on the dash which reads "ENGAGED" On Sept. 16th, 1967, we were married in a very old Episcopal church which we have attended for 42 years since our marriage.

Time for the honeymoon! We departed from my parents home after dark on our wedding day heading for beautiful Santa Barbara, Ca. There had been about 20 tin cans tied to the rear of the Wildcat. Luckily the cans came off before we got on the I-5 north (no littering laws then). After less than a mile on the freeway, there was a loud noise from the rear of the car. I looked in the rear-view mirror to see the cardboard "just married" sign sail away, and the trunk lid was wide open, great start! I pulled to the side of the freeway, looked for any missing items, which there didn't appear to be any, latched the trunk lid down firmly and off we went. We arrived at the upscale Miramar Hotel/Resort in Santa Barbara late that night. The room rate was a whopping \$19.00 a night! Michele and I were both exhausted from a very strenuous day, but on our first night as husband and wife, there's that one thing you are never to tired for (when you are young)!



Tour Schedule for 2014



John Armstrong

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The next morning, we left Santa Barbara and drove up California's beautiful costal Hwy. 1 to San Francisco. We spent our second night there at Motel De Ville. The next morning, while Michele slept in a bit, I borrowed the maintenance man's shop vac and began to clean what must have been pounds of rice from the interior of the Wildcat the best I could. 22 years later when I did a partial restoration of the interior of the Wildcat, I'll bet I found another pound of rice under the seats, behind side panels, around and under the dash and window garnish. I can tell you that today there is not one grain of rice in that Buick! Leaving San Francisco we drove I-80 to Reno where we spent the night. Our plan was to travel to Las Vegas the next day and spend a few nights there. We were driving south on Hwy 395 and knew we had to head further east to connect with Hwy 95 in Nevada. The next part of this story is one I will never forget. The road we chose was well paved, wound up and around a steep mountain pass in a very desolate area. After driving on this road for about twenty miles, we started to climb a steep grade. As the Wildcat doesn't know what a steep grade is, I was driving as fast as I could safely. All of a sudden we came upon a very old flatbed truck with side boards on the bed. This truck had to have been out of the 1930's and was going about 15 MPH. I had to brake hard not to rear end it. This truck was piled high with any kind of junk you can imagine! As I pulled out to pass him, he pulled over in front of me. I thought he had seen a danger that I didn't, so I pulled in behind him. I tried to pass again, same thing, he pulls in front of me. This happened at least four or five times. Michele was scared and wanted me to just go slow and follow him, but by this time, it felt like a scene out of the movies *Duel* and *Deliverance*. In his side view mirror this guy looked like a real "hill-billy" (or politically correct, unsavory character), with a huge beard and beady eyes. When I got another chance to pass, I put my foot to the metal. That Wildcat shifted into 1st gear, the four barrel opened with a roar and that big 430ci shot past him before he could pull over! I drove as fast as I could for the next 20 to 30 miles to get as far away from him as I could. I can't be sure, But I think he had evil on his mind!

The rest of our driving trip went great. There were places in Nevada with no speed limits and as my parents had loaned us their credit card for gasoline, I was not to concerned about fuel consumption, I was driving about 80 to 90 MPH out in the middle of nowhere, both of us decided to see what 100 felt like, then 110MPH for a few moments then slowed to a more "reasonable" speed. Neither my wife or I had ever gone that fast before and have not since. This Wildcat is a great road car. The faster you go the better it runs! We spent several days in Vegas seeing the sights, then it was on to my parents vacation home on the Colorado River near Parker Arizona for a week, then home to reality. Why have we kept this Buick for so long? Six months after our marriage, we bought a home for a whopping \$21,500.00 with \$160.00 a month payments. Then within five years, we were blessed with three fine sons. All three boys came home from the hospital after their births and grew up in the back seat of the Wildcat. We keep it all this time, because for years, we couldn't afford another car. We didn't need or want another car, it was very reliable and has never left us stranded anywhere! In 2005, our oldest son, Michael was married to his bride in the same church as us. After the wedding, they rode to the reception in the Wildcat, now over 43 years old and looking like new. This Buick Wildcat is a member of our family, we will never part with it!

-Larry & Michele Minery

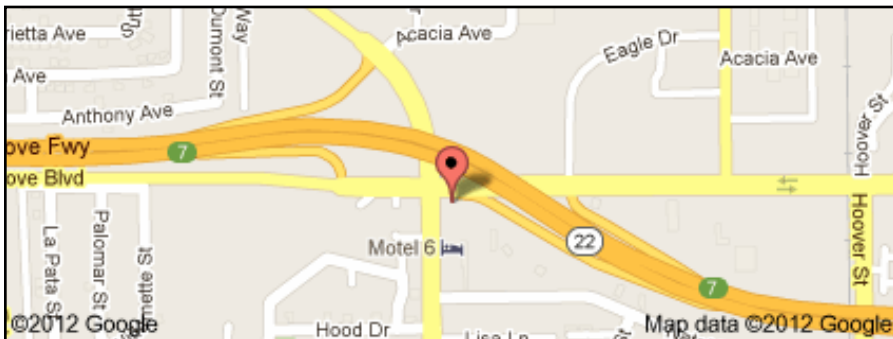


ORANGE COUNTY CHAPTER

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Our Next General Meeting: Tuesday, March 17, 2014



General meetings are held on the third Tuesday of even months at Spires Restaurant, 13030 Goldenwest St., Westminister, Ph. 714 636-0442.

The meeting starts at 7:00 PM and if you come early you can meet with friends over dinner!

CALENDAR



Orange County Chapter BCA
PO Box 3531
Tustin CA 92781